

## **PONTOOSUC LAKE DEEP (6 feet) DRAWDOWN**

We would like to do a 6 foot drawdown of the lake every three years to better control the invasive weed species, and to eventually reduce the amount of herbicide needed for control. A detailed plan has been developed and we have applied to the DEP and the Pittsfield and Lanesborough Conservation Commissions for a permit. There will be a public hearing at a joint meeting of the two commissions on Sept 22, Pittsfield City hall city council chambers, at 6:00 pm.

The following is a summary of the plan;

- Perform a deep drawdown in the winter of 2011, and approximately every third year thereafter.
- Commence the drawdown on Oct 15 and attempt to reach -6 feet by Dec 15. Maintain the -6 foot level until a hard freeze of the lake bottom, but no later than Jan 31
- Commence partial refill after the above to -3 foot, and maintain that level until ice-out or April 1.
- If there is still ice on the lake on April 1 resume the partial refill to -1 foot, and maintain that level until ice-out. If ice-out is before April 1 commence refill immediately.

The purpose of the refill to -3 feet is to reduce the risk of being unable to refill the lake for the early recreation season. The purpose of the refill to -1 foot is to facilitate spawning of species that do it in early spring.

We have prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) with NOI narrative which describes the plan and the rationale in much greater detail. The NOI narrative is at a link on this website.

A periodic deep drawdown is a recommended best practice for lakes in our region with infestations of non-native invasive plants. We strongly believe that it will benefit Pontoosuc Lake. If you have any questions or concerns, contact me or a member of one of the conservations, and attend the hearing on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Sincerely,

Lee J. Hauge, President  
Friends of Pontoosuc